

1 BUSINESS MEETING TO VOTE ON THE NOMINATION OF  
2 THE HONORABLE THOMAS J. VILSACK, OF IOWA  
3 TO BE SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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5 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

6 United States Senate,  
7 Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry,  
8 Washington, D.C.

9 The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 2:44 p.m., in  
10 S-216, The Capitol.

11 Present: Boozman, Hoeven, Ernst, Hyde-Smith, Braun,  
12 Grassley, Thune, Fischer, Stabenow, Brown, Klobuchar,  
13 Bennet, Gillibrand, Casey, and Smith.

14 OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOOZMAN

15 Senator Boozman. Seeing a quorum, I call to order this  
16 business meeting of the Senate Committee on Agriculture,  
17 Nutrition, and Forestry.

18 The purpose of meeting is to consider the nomination of  
19 Secretary Thomas Vilsack to serve as the U.S. Secretary of  
20 Agriculture.

21 The Senate has not passed a resolution that allows for  
22 the committees of the Senate to organize, so the Committee  
23 has no official chair. Similar to the hearing today,  
24 Senator Stabenow has agreed to hold this business meeting so  
25 we can get the Secretary confirmed quickly.

1           This business meeting shall not create any precedent as  
2 to how markups or business meetings shall be announced when  
3 the Chairman or Ranking Member is not officially appointed  
4 by the Senate.

5           Pursuant to the agreement, I now recognize Senator  
6 Stabenow for any remarks she would like to make and for her  
7 to frame a motion to report the nomination.

8                           OPENING STATEMENT OF SENATOR STABENOW

9           Senator Stabenow. Thank you, Senator Boozman for  
10 working with me and with all of us to move this forward.

11           I strongly support Secretary Vilsack for this  
12 nomination.

13           I would move the nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack for  
14 the position of Secretary of Agriculture.

15           Is there a second?

16           Senator Boozman. Second.

17           Senator Stabenow. All those in favor, say aye.

18           [Chorus of ayes.]

19           Senator Stabenow. Those opposed, say nay.

20           [No response.]

21           Senator Stabenow. The ayes have it.

22           The nomination of Thomas J. Vilsack to be Secretary of  
23 Agriculture is approved.

24           [Applause.]

25           Senator Stabenow. The Committee is adjourned.

1 [Whereupon, at 2:46 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]  
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